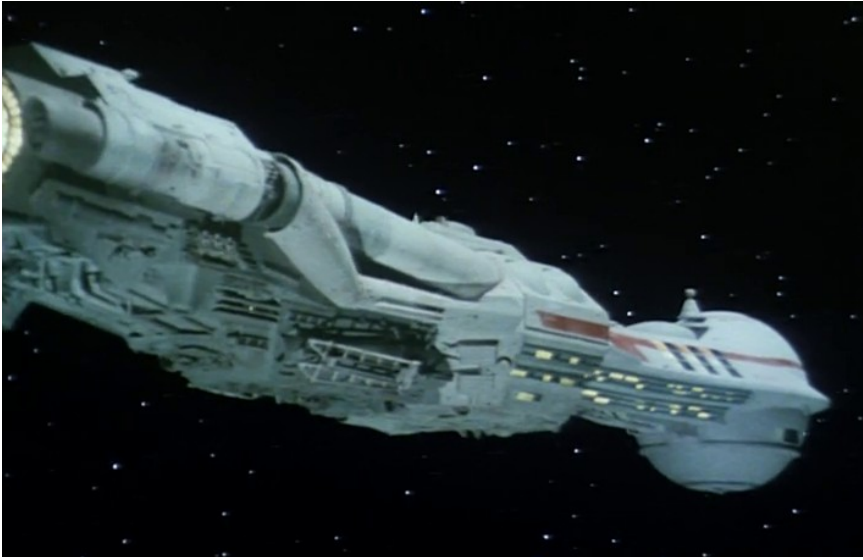


MISSION GALACTICA

PART THREE
BY
JASON WELCH



A 50-ft dimension gate rotates illuminating the black void of space and the SEARCHER comes out of the mercury pool at the center .

CAPTAIN MAXELL Set course for MAGRATHEA and keep a sharp look out for enemy ships .

STEVENS Are we expecting an attack this far out?

CAPTAIN MAXELL With heightened aggression from SPACE RAIDERS we're ordered to be on guard, CHERRY advice our passengers .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY leaves her tactical display console and walks out of the flight deck through the double doors and onto a conveyor belt taking her through the length of the ship .She walks into her apartment and sits on a beige corduroy sofa then activates a wall monitor for Galactic News.

The synthesized ambidextrous voice of MONITOR relays a news feed .

Our top story today is the dramatic rescue of miners and their families from META, which was captured by Space Raiders.

The High Council wish to assure all citizens that they're heightening security and doubling the size of the military.In an emergency session the high council vowed to combat this menace while negotiating a peace settlement .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY MONITOR call the KALDOR POLICE operations room .

ADMINISTRATOR ALGIE KALDOR POLICE.

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY Give me the details of what's high command are doing.

ALGIE They restricted access to dimension gates, to registered vehicles.

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY The news agencies have run with your rescue of citizens on

META combating CYBORGS created on TELOS .

ALGIE SPACE COMMAND are coordinating with the Draconian Empire to stop the Space Raiders from entering Galactic Federation territory.

The intercom by her side beeps from the flight deck.

COMMANDER MAXELL There are two Space Ranger ships off the port bell.

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY ON MY WAY .

She leaves her apartment just as SEARCHER is rocked by a missile attack , she falls onto the soft resin paneling and then the charcoal gray tiled floor picking herself up to use an INTERCOM .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY Status commander Maxell .

MAXELL Diverting all power to the shields STEVENS launch the pursuit ships, I need you up here in tactical .

The emergency lights come on

ADJUDICATOR ANDREWS joins her and they step onto a conveyor belt taking them along the length of the ship and enter the flight deck .

MAXELL All hands this is the captain, I'm diverting all power from non-essential systems to the Shields bring the attack computer online .

ANDREWS and CHERRY take there stations behind the command chair ,

MAXELL ANDREWS lunch pursuit ships

Three pursuit ships piloted by two V-O-C robots are fired out from ejection bays on the side of the SEARCHER,

The SEARCH is rocked by another missile strike .

MAXELL Evasive maneuvers , sharp turn and head towards the dimension gate .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY They're staying with us incoming missiles .

MAXELL All power to the shields in that quadrant .Activating the dimension gate maybe they'll think we're retreating . CHERRY try and weaken the Shields of the nearest battleship, and target their engines .Tactical display on screen .

PURSUIT 1, 2, and 3 speed towards the SPACE RAIDER battleships at full speed .

MAXELL Target lock on the engines and fire BERYLLIUM MISSILES .

The V-O-C gunner in all three pursuit ships fires a BERYLLIUM MISSILE , each exploding near the engines of one SPACE RAIDER battleship that explodes in a ball of fire .

ADJUDICATOR ANDREWS That should cool them down .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY The other battleship is veering off .

MAXELL Stand down from red alert and recall the pursuit ships .Helmsman best coarse to MAGRATHEA .CHERRY, check on our guests .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY See you at the evening meal commander .

MAXELL Yes, full dress uniform for all my officers .

Captain CHERRY leaves her workstation and walks out of the flight deck through the double doors and onto a conveyor belt taking her along the length of the ship then enters the refectory, a large room with royal blue tiled carpet ,polystyrene tiled ceiling with strip lights evenly spaced .

The open plan room is dominated by a pool table and table hockey in the center and an open plan research room in the corner maned by DR GOODFELLOW, TAM HOLDEM and MARK

GREENSTREET .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY We've been attacked by SPACE RAIDERS, one battleship destroyed the other left the field .

She joins them on a royal blue fabric three piece suite .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY I hope you didn't feel any discomfort

TAM HOLDEM Oh no we had every confidence in your ability to defend us .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY We're back on course for MAGRATHEA .

DR GOODFELLOW My dear, it's what we'll find as the SEARCHER gets nearer the MAGRATHEA system that's fascinating .

MARK GREENSTREET If their sun went supernova just like the MAGRATHEANS predicted .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY Then the sun might have become a black hole that pulls planets towards it .

DR GOODFELLOW The supernova could have shifted MAGRATHEA out of its orbit so we'll have to compare all planets in the vicinity to GEOLOGICAL RECORDS .

MARK GREENSTREET It would have made the planet a sterile rock incapable of supporting life .

TAM HOLDEM Yes we wondered why you haven't mounted an expedition to MAGRATHEA before ?

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY We never had the resources to investigate before . MONITOR can you give us a brief description of conflicts in this area .

The synthesized ambidextrous voice of MONITOR reADS FROM ARCHIVES ..

During the first expansion of the galactic federation , conflicts with DRACONIAN EMPIRE who claim this space .

MARK GREENSTREET So the DRACONIANS warned you off and you've never gone back there .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY` Precisely .

DR GOODFELLOW I've been using these terminals to study the journal of the ARK ship which crash landed near ARMENIA, a place we call mount Ararat mythically where Noah's ark birthed in Christian mythology .

MARK GREENSTREET We're hoping that people did survive the catastrophe of the SUPERNOVA and use the advanced technology to rebuild a stable human society .

MONITOR After the peace treaties the high council decided to suspend research and stop the reproduction in incubators which came on the ARK ship to KALDOR .

DR GOODFELLOW You don't reproduce using the incubators which were on the ARK ship .

MONITOR The DRACONIANS and other federation members forbade the use of the incubators as it could increase human numbers in a geometric progression stifling and superseding the other races,

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY As I'm your SPACE COMMAND liaison officer we'll start analyzing when we're nearer MAGRATHEA and I'll see you at the captain's table later on .

She crosses the royal blue tiled carpet and through the double doors ,then steps onto a conveyor belt taking her to her apartment then sits on a beige corduroy sofa .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY What's the situation commander ?

COMMANDER MAXELL SPACE COMMAND confirms MAGRATHEA is out of our empire but it's near DRACONIAN territory .Ambassador SONDAR has launched two draconian battleships to our location to aid us if we encounter more SPACE RAIDERS battleships .

MAXELL SPACE RAIDERS are looking for any federation colony not defended and away from the dimension gates to colonize and hold us to ransom .They feel the federation is abusing the RUTONS as food to expand human society .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY The RUTONS of NIMBUS 3 are working with outlaws and renegades to create a SPACE RAIDER empire .

MAXELL Well I see all of the evening meal , full dress uniform .

Later on the synthesized ambidextrous voice of monitor announces that the SEARCHER is entering the MAGRATHEA star system .

CHERRY leaves her apartment and steps onto a conveyor then through sliding doors into the refectory, across the blue tailed carpet to see the passengers .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY We're at the MAGRATHIA system , time to start our survey .

MARK GREENSTREET Let's go .

The survey team follow her out double sliding doors and onto a conveyor belt taking them through the length of the ship .They step into the SCIENCE OPERATIONS ROOM, a medium-sized oblong of floral papered walls painted in sky blue vinyl and lemon tiled carpet . They sit on matching beige corduroy sofas around a glass coffee table .

CHERRY uses her wrist comm, to activate 8ft monitors showing various star fields and asks ADJUDICATOR STEVENS join them in the science operation room .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY Status commander MAXELL ?

MAXELL I'm detecting large energy traces ,running it through databanks

It seems we have a black hole at the center of the MAGRATHEA system .

DR GOODFELLOW That confirms the journal of ark ship INTREPID .

MARK GREENSTREET All those years ago their sun did go SUPERNOVA and created a black hole .

DR GOODFELLOW As we get closer to the coordinates of the fable birthplace of civilization .

MAXELL I'm going to skirt the area giving the black hole a wide berth and home in on planets unaffected by its magnetic pull .

MARK GREENSTREET I'll feed you the radius of the outer planets which you can compare with our archives .

ADJUDICATOR STEVENS enters the science operations room ,and joinsCHERRY at monitoring consoles .

DR GOODFELLOW What are these purple and orange planets here on my tactical display?

ADJUDICATOR STEVENS They seem stable ,unaffected by the gravitational pull of the black hole.

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY Anyone want a coffee , before we start a detailed scientific analysis .

TAM HOLDEM Yes I'll have a white cappuccino .

DR GOODFELLOW I'll have earl gray tea .

TAM HOLDEM Alright then I'll do the honors back in the jiffy .

ADJUDICATOR STEVENS I think I found the lost planet of MAGRATHEA at the edge of the sphere of influence of the black hole .

DR GOODFELLOW It has the same mass as MAGRATHEA according to the records .But these readings show a barron rocky surface while MAGRATHEA was 70% water with a breathable atmosphere.

MARK GREENSTREET So we can only assume that when the sun went SUPERNOVA the energy wave burnt off the atmosphere and moved the planet here .

From ships tannoy relayed through speakers mounted above the door MAXELL relays instructions from the flight deck .

MAXELL. I'm sending out high orbital reconnaissance probes that should be able to map the surface now we're in geostationary orbit above the Northern hemisphere of the planet .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY Feed all data to us , in the SCIENTIFIC OPERATIONS SUIT, and we'll analyze .

DR GOODFELLOW Well I wouldn't miss this for all the tea in China

ADJUDICATOR STEVENS PARDON

ADJUDICATOR ALGIE Detecting some large hemispheres at the equatorial region ,

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY Put it on the main screen and enlarge .

v26 comes in carrying a tray of hot drinks and serves the personnel seated on the blue fabric sofa .

DR GOODFELLOW Either the remnants of life before the SUPERNOVA or survivors after ,the remnants of civilization .

MAXELL Then we'll maintain this orbit and send some shuttles down ,CHERRY pick your away team .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY We'll all go down , follow me to the shuttle bay .

They leave the SCIENCE OPERATIONS ROOM and alight a conveyor belt taking them down the length of the ship towards the engines, then enter a large shuttle bay with two shuttles in silos connected by cables to recharge booths .

STEVENS uses a wrist comm to activate shuttle alpha , they alight strap into accelerator couches ,CHERRY and STEVENS take pilot's chair .

Shuttle bay depressurises and a conveyor moves shuttle alpha to the outer door which rolls up revealing the black void of space .

CHERRY maneuvers out of SEARCHER and accelerates towards the planet

MAXELL I'm scrambling pursuit ships to follow you down, with four V-O-C who you can direct to investigate these biodoms .

DR GOODFELLOW Let's just hope there's life here and we're not left with egg on our faces .

MARK GREENSTREET Not a mausoleum or a shrine dedicated to those who lived here centers ago.

Shuttle alpha swoops into the atmosphere and is buffeted by atmospheric slipstreams and CHERRY keys in a flight plan towards the equatorial region .

STEVENS There's a thin atmosphere of carbon dioxide and ammonia; there's nothing to support life down there .

The shuttlecraft swoops out of a cloud bank and flies towards the equatorial region and from the forward monitor Stevens zooms in on three 50 ft high semi-circles set into the ground, 100 metre diameter

STEVENS Take a heading south southwest .

CHERRY I have target lock on three hemispheres small, medium and large the size of

a city .

STEVENS PURSUIT SHIP home in on these coordinates.And look for an opening.In these domes.

MARK GREENSTREET There must be a large airlock if these were created before the catastrophe.

We might as well call it the event one just after

DR GOODFELLOW It should be a large one for plant and equipment and another one for human access.

CHERRY lands SHUTTLE ALPHA 100 meters from the 50 ft DOMES .She and STEVENS leave the cockpit and join GOODFELLOW and GREENSTREET in the operations room .

STEVENS Pursuit ships make a full sensor sweep of the area, find an opening and then land near SHUTTLE ALPHA.

The pursuit ships.Piloted by VOC robots.Circle just above.The 50 metre high domes. Using strong flood light beams.They locate an entrance.A short distance away.

From my operations console STEVENS turns flood lamps over the surface of the dome .

STEVEN I can see there's an opening .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY Ok then if you follow me to the cargo hold I'll fit you out for your spacesuits and then we'll get into an all terrain vehicle .

They walk into the cargo hold and put on environment suits with backpacks and then get into a buggy with a plastic canopy then release the pneumatic door at the back and drive onto the rocky surface .

STEVENS points the vehicle towards the opening as two pursuit ships land next to the shuttle .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY V25 and v26 go to the airlock and find a manual control .

Four V-O-C climb out and walk to the man-sized door in the semi-circular dome , take spanners out of a toolkit and start on the manual door release which opens .

The canopy or the buggy opens upwards and The away team follow cherry and Stevens towards the circular walls then around the rim of the dome to join the V-O-C at the human entrance .

CHERRY I'll let the V-O-C go in first .

Two V-O-C step into the airlock with a line of environment suits and an inner door leading to the main dome .

V21 If there is life on the other side, there'll be a breathable atmosphere .

CHERRY V21 opens that door v22 close this door .

v22 HANDS V21 the spanners and closes the first door

They stand by the outer hatch and CHERRY gets a call on her Wrist communicator from v21

CHERRY V21 says he's through into the main chamber .

V21 tHE 500 meter chamber is brightly lit and contains large boulders near the entrance and a forest behind to the right of the outer wall with a town of prefabricated houses 100 meters away, a large landscape garden and cultivated area to the left .

DR GOODFELLOW If there's a settlement there let's go and meet the inhabitants .

MARK GREENSTREET yes they could be a lost long cousins from across the galaxy .

They walk into the airlock room and take off there environment suits leaving the backpacks to the side close the outer hatch, then open the airlock into the 500 meter semi-circular cavern .

From the main road of the settlement a ground car comes out, and speeds towards them .

ADJUDICATOR STEVENS Be ready with the translator,

DR GOODFELLOW We shouldn't need the universal translator, records show that it was the MAGRATHEA people who introduced English to the earliest civilizations 3,000 years ago . We

just have to be polite and friendly .

An open top vehicle pulls up near the airlock .

MARK GREENSTREET Hello we are explorers,

SVEN Welcome to MAGRATHEA. I am SVEN. This is JURGUN .

Stand down from red alert

Millions of people throughout the entire galactic federation and planet earth where we come from

SVEN Ancient records speak of the great exodus, you'll have to speak to the test we are the tribe of SEVATEAM

They walk behind the buggie towards the town .

SVEN The GUARDIANS have all the answers and provide this place we call UK habitat .

JURGUN We are simple farmers. My brother ROM keep the records of the time before the exodus .

The beach buggy stops at town center prefabricated habitats stacked up against the circular wall through the town .Then through a stone entrance way into a display room with display cabinets and artwork .

ROM This is dedicated to exodus .CALEB is the curator .

ADJUDICATOR STEVENS There was a CALEB on the first ARK ship .

BIOS The ARK SHIP left MAGRATHEA and the crew went into hibernation,

CALEB It's proud and fitting that I should find the descendants of the exodus before the great SUPERNOVA .We have two calendars BS BEFORE SUPERNOVA AND AS after supernova They walk out the hall of records and over to the clock tower displaying the standard 24 hour cycle .Families come out young men women and children, young people from the tribe .

ROM At the end of the day, the GUARDIANS control the night .

CALEB walks over to the clock tower and bangs are gong .From the rock face at the end of town two stone boulders retract across revealing a 20 foot archway and figures in charcoal gray costume with the light gray chest plate come out carrying long pointed spears .

CALEB This is HORUS the leader of the guardians .

HORUS You say you're the people of those who left before supernova ,on the ark ship

CALEB MY great grandfather left on ark 1

ADJUDICATOR STEVENS And found KALDOR, where we come from ,

HORUS Nevertheless.You are all past the selection age. You must come down with us.

The Guardians start pointing their Spears at them hurding them Towards the underground bunker .

CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY All V-O-C to defensive mode, , they can protect us scan for weapons

ADJUDICATOR STEVENS And remember to be polite when you aim your plasma rifle .

CALEB if I might explain I'm still the MAILIN until I hand over the office to

ROM .

STEVENS V-O-C stand down from defense mode .

MARK You don't have a vote or hold an election to find your leader ?
 BIOS The MAILIN is the oldest man in the village .
 MARK But you're a young man .
 CALEB It's my 50th birthday this year. I succeeded MAILIN Rennes .
 In the journal of the interpret their first captain was mail in tech
 Yes ticker is an honorary type,
 CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY Then why are they branching spears like this?
 They've never seen outworlders and you're way above the age of the registration .
 HORUS Caleb is going down to be deregistered,
 MARK d-registered I like that sounds how much better than executed ,
 CAPTAIN ELISABETH CHERRY We have similar programs on KALDOR, not nearly as strict .

CHERRY gets a call on her WRIST COMM .

MAXELL There are SPACE RAIDERS coming into orbit .

DR GOODFELLOW You can't let the space wages get hold of this technology, use it to expand their numbers and wage war on the galactic federation .

Caleb turns to his brother, you are now mailing ROM head of the tribe of severity, I take my place with the GUARDIANS and then be declassified as is the tradition of a tribe .

the guardians go back through the large archway

DR GOODFELLOW While In the hall of records I showed Caleb a diagram of the human incubators they're down there the guardians have them .

MAXELL Then they can't fall into SPACE RAIDER hands , even if we have to call on the DRACONIANS defend this sector of space .

CHERRY WE LEAVE NOW

MAXELL HORUS leader of the guardians will you let us bring down some
equipment and the platoon of V-O-C assemblers

CALEB We've never had this mechanical men here in the village before .

COMMANDER MAXELL Welcome to the Galactic Federation.We'll be back with canned goods, groceries, canned meats, vegetables.And soups.By appointment of President Vanessa Bellamy of the Galactic Federation. .

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